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## OPINIONS OF MARY

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“‘Politics—that part of ethics’ (and ethics is the science of human duty) ‘which has to do with the regulation and government of a nation or state; the preservation of its safety, peace and prosperity; the defence of its existence against foreign control or conquest; the augmentation of its strength and resources; the protection of its citizens in their rights, with the preservation and improvement of their morals. In a bad sense it means artful or dishonest management to secure the success of party measures or schemes.’”

She laid down the extract and looked at me impressively.

“Now, if there is anything in the true definition of politics that makes it improper for any decent woman, with loyalty to country and love of humanity in her heart and just the average amount of ordinary common sense in her head, to seek to take part in, I would like you to point it out. And if politics has come to be considered as such only in its bad sense, it is high time a purifying element were introduced.”

She waited a moment, but I found nothing special to say.

“Certainly party divisions might not be so strongly emphasized if there were universal suffrage. People might endeavor to try how far they could work together, instead of each party striving to secure and retain power by hook or